

## NEW PUBLICATIONS.

## SOME CURRENT VERSE.

**IN THE WOODS AND ELSEWHERE.** By Thomas Hood. 12mo. pp. 207. Boston: Cupples & Hurd. LAYS OF MEMORY AND AFFECTION, Etc. By Caroline May. 16mo. pp. 281. A. D. F. Randolph & Co.

CHRISTMAS CAROLLS, and Other Poems. By Annie Chambers-Ketchum. Square 12mo. pp. 205. Appleton & Co.

SONGS OF THE CELT. By Charles Castle Connolly. 12mo. pp. 416. Baltimore: John Murphy & Son.

SONG OF THE PALM, and Other Poems. By Tracy Robinson. 16mo. pp. 107. Brentano's.

OLD AND NEW WORLD LYRICS. By Clinton Scollard. 32mo. pp. 104. F. A. Stokes & Broth.

WOOD BLOOMS. By John Vance Cheney. 32mo. pp. 223. F. A. Stokes & Broth.

SONGS OF TOIL. By Carmen Silva. Queen of Russia. Translated by John Elton Bowen. With illustrations by J. C. Shattock. 32mo. pp. 142. F. A. Stokes & Broth.

REBEL RHYMES, and Other Poems. By Elizabeth J. Herford. 16mo. pp. 78. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

TANRED'S DAUGHTER, and Other Poems. By Charles G. Blanden. 16mo. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

COMFORT. By Mrs. Herrick Johnson. New and enlarged edition. 16mo. pp. 188. A. D. F. Randolph & Co.

SONGS FROM BERANGER. Translated by Craven Langstroth Beets. 32mo. pp. 254. F. A. Stokes & Broth.

The larger part of Mr. Hill's verses are of a connoisseur character. There are some rather curious metrical experiments, the effect of which is not wholly pleasant. Some alleged translations are really paraphrases.

Caroline May is doubtless a good soul, full of piety, and mistaking devoutness for the spirit of poetry. Heebe the volume which bears her name, and which contains a sufficiently modest collection of those smooth, simple, decorous, reverential verses, whose flow is liquid and free as that of a brook in a level landscape, and whose flavor is as flat. Such poetry, nevertheless, forms the minds of many people who would never attain comprehension of a higher order, and who are at least soothed and gently stimulated by these unambitious rhymes.

A number of Christmas poems and hymns, of which several have been published before, are gathered into a handsome volume, with illustrations, by Annie Chambers-Ketchum. The poems of the season belong to a familiar class, in which the possibility of originality has long ceased. The other verses are marked by some vitality of fancy and facility of composition, and the more pretentious pieces in blank verse, for the most part on scriptural subjects, are disfigured by few halting verses.

Mr. Connolly's "Songs of the Celt" are distinguished by a fine carelessness of artistic conventions. Melody, rhythm, rhyme, scansion, every rule of art, in short, is by turns defied, and sometimes all are defied together. This poet makes "elite" rhyme with "quite," and "pressed" with "waste." Still it cannot be denied that there is a certain interest in such lawless verse. One follows the daring author, wondering what extravagance he will commit next. This occupation is mildly exciting; but the reader is looking for poetry we can hardly recommend him or her to try Mr. Connolly's alleged verse.

Mr. Robinson's "Song of the Palm," published some years ago in a magazine, attracted attention by the tropical warmth and color of its imagery. The spirit manifested in this poem also characterizes many of the shorter pieces in the present little volume. The author, who has lived long in the tropics, has felt a poet's appreciation of their beauty and languor and has learned to reproduce their charms in verse, which, if not conspicuous for the weight of its import, is full of luxuriant ease and drowsy melody. Here is a bit of the "Palm," full of the feeling of the South:

When the wild North-wind by the sun enchanted,  
Seeks the fair South, as lover-beauty's shrine,  
It bears the moaning of the sorrow-haunted,  
Gloomy, stormy pine.

The waves of ocean catch the miserere,  
Are driven farward from the wintry main,  
Then roll it o'er reaches vast and dreary  
With infinite refrain.

Until on coral shores, where endless summer  
Waves golden banners round her sunny throne  
The palm enfolds the weary spirit roams  
With low responsive moon.

The sea-grape hangs, in the sweet shadow,  
The tropical flower, like a crowned Sultana;  
The palm-flower, rose;

And the same time, in his darksome lair,  
Dove hid away beneath the bamboo-tree;  
All the wild inhabitants of earth and air,  
And of the sleeping sea.

It throws a spell of silence so entralling,  
So breathless and intense and mystic,  
That roll it o'er reaches vast and dreary  
With infinite refrain.

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